

played excerpts from a new CD of Daniels singing Handel arias. She sniffed, “Well, I’m not giving up my Maureen Forrester for that.” I hasten to add that she really enjoyed the rollicking and gender-bending production, including Daniels’s marvellous performance. But while she owned CDs by Forrester, Doris repeatedly said that she wished she had more of the contralto’s recordings to play at home. In fact, that was the subject of the last e-mail I sent to her. And it was gratifying to be told that in her later years, on the trips with her sons that she cherished so much, Doris would take along and play the sampler CDs.

Coda: I can imagine that, in future when I hear Chopin’s “Military Polonaise” sound, its rhythms will evoke Doris’s footfalls—confident, steady, and determined—just the way

I think she wanted, and expected, women to proceed on their quest for equality.

Wendy Lawrence was an active member of the Ontario Committee on the Status of Women (1972-1980). She was hired in July 1980 by Doris Anderson as a ‘policy assistant’ at the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, a position from which she resigned with Doris, in January 1981. In 1982-83, she was an elected member of the executive of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, on whose editorial committee she had previously served. She retired from the federal public service in 2006, after working for 25 years at the Canadian International Development Agency, most recently as a Gender Equality Specialist.

Song for Doris Doris Anderson Memorial, May 12, 2007

Lyrics by Mary Lou Fallis

CHORUS

“Doris!”
We sing in chorus.
Roget’s Thesaurus we have outdone
In lauding
And in applauding
Doris Hilda McCubbin Anderson.

VERSE ONE

Out in the foothills of Alberta
In 1921
A woman gave birth to a babe
A daughter, not a son

That child turned out to be a force
With which one had to reckon
Her homeland was too tame for her
But Europe seemed to beckon.

VERSE TWO

Post-Europe she returned to walk
The journalism beat
As Chatelaine of Chatelaine
Her revenge was mighty sweet

The circulation tripled,
And she became a star
She’s our rebel daughter
She’s taken us so far.

VERSE THREE

And then she went to Ottawa
Her sojourn there is legend
She headed up the the NAC
Put an end to hedgin’

At constitution-signing time
They called her a curmudgeon
But she knew when to make a stand
And stormed out in high dudgeon.

VERSE FOUR

The mother of three children
And three-time novelist
She’s been chancellor and governor and
editor and director and...
There’s lots that I have missed
(Did I mention the three honorary
doctorates?)

VERSE FIVE

She’s a friend to Madame Adrienne,
June Callwood and Michele,
Sheila Kieran, Nancy Ruth
Lois Wilson and as well

She’s helped a thousand others
Oh don’t you ever rest?
You’ve led us ever onward,
Oh, Doris: you’re the best!

Mary Lou Fallis, a Toronto born singer, writer, teacher, broadcaster, producer, is Canada’s foremost “Soprano Comedienne.” She combines a teaching position at the University of Western Ontario’s Faculty of Music with her performing career. Most recently, she produced the Gemini award winning series Bathroom Divas for BRAVO! TV

**Doris
Hilda
McCubbin
Anderson**

1921-2007



